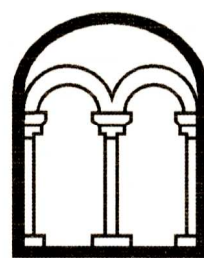


**LAND OFF CAMPTON ROAD
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
FINAL REPORT**

Albion
archaeology



**LAND OFF CAMPTON ROAD
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
FINAL REPORT**

Project: CR2336
Document: 2016/62
Version: 1.1

Bedford Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2014.04
OASIS ref. no.: albionar1-230684

28th June 2016

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Produced for:
CgMs Consulting Ltd

On behalf of:
Bovis Homes (Central)



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Bovis Homes (Central) and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake of Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Team.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and Benjamin Carroll (Archaeological Supervisor) with the assistance of Adam Williams, Adrian Woolmer (Assistant Supervisors), Anna Orlowska-Synus, Hanno Conring, Heather White and Marcin Synus (Archaeological Technicians).

The report has been prepared by Mike Luke (Project Manager), Ben Carroll and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Figures have been produced by Ben Carroll and Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff

Thanks are due to the staff of Whitmore Plant for their work in challenging weather conditions over the course of the project.

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.1	28/06/2016	Comments from CBCA
1.0	17/03/2016	n/a

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Bovis Homes (Central)
Consultant	CgMs Consulting Ltd
DA	Development area
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council's Historic Environment Record
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

In late 2015 and early 2016 Albion Archaeology carried out an archaeological investigation in advance of residential development of land off Campton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire (TL 136 386). The results are presented in this report.

The development area lies close to a known heritage asset in the form of a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement. Investigations over the last twenty years have shown that the settlement comprises a series of rectangular ditched enclosures and contains several buildings, including an aisled building with heated rooms. Antiquarian investigations undertaken in the early 19th century found a cemetery, now presumed to be associated with the settlement. Although its precise location is uncertain it may have been in the vicinity of the development area.

For this reason a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that was approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

The investigations revealed a small number of late Iron Age/Romano-British features — a water-pit and boundary ditches — and demonstrated that no burials survived within the excavation area. If any burials had once been present, they would probably have been destroyed by post-medieval quarrying, found in the northern part of the excavation area.

It now seems likely that the main western boundary of the settlement was that located in previous investigations, just outside the development area to the east. Given the small number of features, a relatively large assemblage of late Iron Age/Romano-British artefacts, mainly pottery, was recovered from the investigations. The vast majority of this derived from the water-pit, suggesting that it was used for rubbish disposal once it had gone out use. A small assemblage of abraded early Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the investigations, hinting that a settlement of this period was located in the vicinity.

Given that the earlier, more substantial investigations of the settlement have already been published in the county archaeological journal, no further analysis and reporting is required, beyond that presented in this report. Summaries of the work will be published in the relevant national and local journals and uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-230684). With the landowner's permission the archive will be deposited in The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford, under accession number BEDFM 2014.04.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project background**

Planning application (CB/14/01726/OUT) for the erection of up to 140 new dwellings and associated infrastructure, playing fields and youth facility at land off Campton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire was granted on appeal (APP/P0240/W/14/2228671).

Because of the site's archaeological potential the following condition (no. 6) was attached to the planning permission:

No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation; that includes post excavation analysis and publication, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby approved shall only be implemented in accordance with the approved archaeological scheme.

Following discussions between the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) and CgMs Consulting Ltd, it was agreed that the condition would be addressed by a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, followed, if necessary, by analysis and publication. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Bovis Homes (Central) to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and to implement the necessary work.

1.2 **Site location and description**

The development area (DA) lies on the western edge of Shefford (Fig. 1). It is a triangular piece of land which measures some 6ha in extent centred on grid reference TL 136 386. The DA is bordered by the Campton Road to the north-west, Ampthill Road to the north, residential housing along School Lane and Shefford Lower School to the east, and the A505 to the south.

Topographically the DA lies on the north-facing slope of a low east-west ridge between the River Flit (to the north) and a tributary stream to the south at a height of c. 45m OD. The geology of the DA is Lower Greensand with Valley Gravels and alluvium associated with the River Flit and localised deposits of Boulder Clay.

1.3 **Archaeological background**

The area around Shefford Lower School, to the east of the DA, contains a known heritage asset (HER 379) representing a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement. It has been the subject of numerous, but intermittent and piecemeal, archaeological investigations over the last 200 years. Those undertaken up to 2004 have been described in Luke *et al.* 2010 and are, therefore, only summarised below.

During gravel extraction in 1826 a local antiquarian, Thomas Inskip, identified what he believed to be a walled Roman cemetery (Inskip 1850). The location



of his investigations have been estimated, based on his sketch maps, to be in the vicinity of 95 Ampthill Road (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2) adjacent to the DA. The cemetery included cremation burials, grave goods including complete pottery vessels, such as samian ware and amphora, as well as glass and bronze vessels with coins and other metal objects.

In the 1830s Inskip examined an area c. 200m south-east of the cemetery (Dryden 1845). Here he located a possibly rectangular Roman building, interpreted at the time as a temple. An assessment of his description of the location of his finds would place this building in the immediate vicinity of the original Robert Bloomfield Primary School (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2).

Artefacts continued to be found in this area of Shefford. There are unconfirmed reports of the discovery of Roman armour during the construction in 1872 of the new school (later to become Shefford Lower School), north of the putative temple site.

Later, in the summer of 1940, Edgar Gray excavated two trenches during levelling of the school field (not published, but a brief summary and plan were produced by a Mr Davis (copy in HER)). Behind the garden of 77a Ampthill Road he located the remains of a Roman building which included at least one room with a hypocaust. Simco believed this building was the same as that previously claimed by Inskip as a temple (Simco 1984).

More recently, in 1976, artefacts and material of Roman date were found during the construction of a school extension.

After the implementation of PPG16 in 1990 all subsequent development in the vicinity of HER 379 was subject to archaeological assessment, including field evaluation. A large number of these were carried out by Albion Archaeology and comprise Albion project numbers 244, 365, 412, 583, 665, 694, 773, 1263 and 2012. Three of these, projects 244, 694 and 773 proceeded to detailed investigations.

Project 365 comprised trial trenching and test pitting, undertaken in 1993 in advance of construction of a new access road and car park for Shefford Lower School (BCAS 1993). Roman features including ditches, pits and postholes were identified. The recovered artefacts included a wide range of pottery and metal objects. Although no Roman buildings were clearly identified the recovery of tile, brick, *opus signinum*, mortar and painted wall plaster suggests that 'high status' Roman buildings existed in the vicinity. A subsequent watching brief (Project 445) was carried out during construction of the car park. Although the ground was not taken down to archaeological levels over the whole area, a large Roman ditch was located.

In 2001, evaluation and excavations in advance of housing development on land immediately to the north of the Shefford Lower School (Project 773, Albion 2001a), revealed substantial Roman remains. These included an aisled building, cobbled surfaces, a substantial boundary ditch and a substantial



quantity of pottery, ceramic building material including hypocaust tile, along with mortar and painted plaster (Luke *et al.* 2010).

Archaeological evaluation undertaken in February 2003 (Albion 2003) in advance of major building work for Shefford Lower School revealed coherent Roman remains. Areas were examined in advance of construction during 2004 and 2005 (Project 893, Albion 2005). The earliest firm evidence for settlement was in the form of a substantial ditch which possibly originated in the late Iron Age but continued in use throughout the Romano-British period (Luke *et al.* 2010, 323 and fig. 18). A post-built building, pits and gullies dated to the Romano-British period were also located within the settlement enclosure during the 2004 investigation (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 6). A second enclosure was located to the west of a possible routeway; it contained a large number of quarry pits and a dog burial (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 6). The investigations recovered a substantial quantity of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, along with mortar and painted plaster indicating the presence of a high status building.

Subsequent excavations by Archaeological Solutions and Northamptonshire Archaeology on the playing fields to the south of the Shefford Lower School revealed further archaeological remains in the form of a boundary ditch, probably some distance from the main settlement (Walker 2007). Further excavations revealed two smaller Roman boundary ditches and substantial disturbance by modern services (Flavell 2010 and Jones 2012).

During 2012 and 2013 further Investigations were associated with extensions to the school buildings, changes to the car parks, construction of new play areas and new services. These revealed further evidence for the Roman settlement including boundary ditches and quarry pits, along with Romano-British finds (Albion 2014a).

During 2014 pre-determination evaluation was undertaken within the DA to the west of Shefford Lower School. This comprised geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2014) and trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2014b), but no Roman features were identified.

1.4 Project objectives

Research frameworks that have been devised for the region including *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties*, *2 Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) and specifically for Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake *et al.* 2007).

Both the local and regional research agendas state that little detailed work has so far been carried out on the characterisation of Iron Age and Roman rural settlements, specifically on the form and significance of Roman farms (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19; Oake *et al.* 2007, 11). Medlycott particularly highlights the question of the frequency of aisled buildings within the region and their use



(Medlycott 2011, 47). Questions of the Iron Age to Roman transition within the county could also be addressed (Medlycott 2011, 44).

The specific research objectives of the investigation were:

- To further characterise settlement features within the enclosure and to add to our knowledge of the form and character of the settlement;
- To identify the nature of potential occupation outside the main settlement enclosure ditch;
- To reveal potential further evidence of the trackway and quarry pits to the west of the enclosure and possible activity by the side of the trackway;
- To potentially identify the nature and location of the Iron Age and/or Saxon settlement components.

The general purpose of the archaeological investigation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site.
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

1.5 Methodologies

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion 2015).

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001b).
• ALGAO (East)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• Bedford Museum	<i>Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (Bedford Museum 2010).



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIfA 	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct (2014)</i>
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (2014)</i>
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic England (formerly English Heritage) 	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2015)</i>
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (Second Edition) (2011)</i>

1.6 **Fieldwork and monitoring**

The fieldwork reported on here was undertaken between 10th December 2015 and 20th January 2016.

The investigation area was opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket under archaeological supervision with overburden removed to spoil heaps by dump truck and a dozer. Excavation stopped at the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. Archaeological hand excavation and recording were then undertaken.

The fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the client by Simon Mortimer (CgMs Consulting Ltd). Due to wet weather, and therefore poor ground conditions, the only way that earthmoving could be undertaken was to “drive over” stripped ground. Therefore, as investigations were completed, areas were incrementally ‘signed off’ on behalf of the local planning authority by Martin Oake (CBCA). This took place at site meetings on 16th December 2015 and 13th, 15th and 19th January 2016. The site was handed back to the developer on 22nd January 2016.



2 RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

The results are presented below under the following sections: features/deposits, finds and the project archive. Where site recording numbers have been used they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate feature number = [***] and fill number = (***).

2.2 Features/deposits

The following section is divided into three on the basis of the nature of the feature/deposits. Detailed descriptions of every individual context are provided in Appendix 1 and this should be consulted for information such as alignment, nature of fills, dimensions etc. Archaeological features are illustrated on Figs 2 and 3.

2.2.1 Overburden and natural geology

The topsoil (3001) was up to 0.4m thick but the subsoil (3002) varied from 0.2–0.7m with thicker deposits at the bottom of the slope to the NW. The increase in thickness is probably the result of down-slope soil movement. The overburden overlay a varied natural geological layer (3003) that was predominately silty clay at the top of the slope changing down slope to sandy silt with frequent ironstone deposits, and then sand at the base of the slope to the NW of the DA.

2.2.2 Late Iron Age/Romano-British

The earliest archaeological features date to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period and all were located in the northern part of the investigation area. They comprised a large water-pit and a ditch that had been re-cut twice. The latter was truncated by extensive post-medieval quarrying to the NW.

Water-pit [3102] was hand-excavated in two opposing quadrants, assigned context numbers [3040] and [3053]. It was oval in plan, aligned NE-SW on the long axis, 5.3m by 4.1m and 1.m deep, with an asymmetrical profile, steep sides and an uneven base. No waterlogged deposits survived in the base of the pit. The varied nature of most of the fills and their non-symmetrical profile suggest that the pit was deliberately backfilled. This is supported by the large quantities of domestic debris, including 71 sherds of late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, a Romano-British brick fragment, slag and an iron sheet fragment (RA1). The majority of this material was found in the secondary fill of the eastern quadrant [3053], i.e. the side closest to the known settlement. In addition to the late Iron Age/ Romano-British pottery, four abraded early Iron Age sherds were recovered.

L-shaped ditch [3098] was 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep and was a recut of [3064]. It was traced for c. 36m but had been truncated to the NE by modern ploughing and by post-medieval quarrying [3096] to the NW. The ditch fill contained a small amount of late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery. Its western length was replaced by ditch [3100] which was recut once and both terminated after turning slightly to the east.



2.2.3 Post-medieval and modern

An extensive area of post-medieval quarrying [3096] was identified at the bottom of the slope in the NW part of the DA. It continued beyond the limit of excavation but an area measuring c. 65m N-S by 40m E-W was exposed. Its eastern edge was investigated within several segments and in one of these it was over 1.2m deep. Smaller areas of quarries [3031], [3033] and [3035] were found adjacent to the eastern limit of excavation. The fills of some of the quarries contained residual Romano-British pottery and tile, along with post-medieval finds. At the request of the CBCA the fill within segment [3088] was sampled. Processing of the sample produced the occasional charcoal fleck but the soil was otherwise sterile, suggesting that it represents hillwash / colluvium that has accumulated in the top of the backfilled quarry.

Other features included four NE-SW ditches [3005], [3007], [3015], [3025] parallel to the Campton Road. These are modern in date because they truncated the backfilled post-medieval quarry [3096]. Small pit [3011] was dug into the undisturbed geology in the vicinity of the modern ditches. The fills of all these features contained post-medieval and modern pottery, only a representative sample of which was retained. Two similar small pits [3027] and [3029], but without any finds, were located adjacent to the eastern quarry pits and are therefore presumed to be of a similar date.

2.3 Finds

An assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone and three non-ceramic finds was collected (Table 1).

Feature	Description	Fill	Finds date range	Finds summary
3002	Subsoil	3002	Roman	Ceramic roof tile (356g)
3004	Quarry pit	3061	Roman	Pottery (93g); ceramic building material (168g)
3005	Ditch	3006	Post-medieval	Pottery (21g); animal bone (12g)
3011	Pit	3012	Late medieval/post-medieval	Pottery (7g)
3013	Ditch	3014	Undated	Animal bone (8g)
3019	Ditch	3020	Post-medieval	Pottery (23g)
3025	Ditch	3026	Post-medieval	Ceramic building material (70g)
3031	Quarry pit	3032	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (95g)
3033	Quarry pit	3034	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (24g)
3035	Quarry pit	3037	Post-medieval	Pottery (28g); ceramic building material (579g)
3038	Quarry pit	3039	Roman	Pottery (5g)
3040	Water-pit	3046	Iron Age	Pottery (15g)
3040	Water-pit	3052	Roman	Pottery (12g)
3053	Water-pit	3056	Roman	Pottery (641g); brick fragment (75g); ferrous slag/ore (136g); iron sheet fragment (RA1)
3053	Water-pit	3057	Late Iron Age/early Roman	Pottery (38g); animal bone (1g)
3064	Ditch	3065	Late Iron Age/early Roman	Pottery (6g)
3070	Ditch	3071	Undated	Worked flint (11g)

Table 1: Finds Summary by feature

2.3.1 Pottery

Eighty-four pottery sherds (889g) representing approximately 55 vessels were collected from eight features, the majority (71 sherds) deriving from the SE quadrant [3053] of Roman water-pit [3102]. The material displays variable fragmentation, with single sherds ranging in weight from 2g to 147g (mean



sherd weight 11g). Iron Age, early Romano-British and post-medieval/modern pottery is represented; the fabric types are identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).

Fabric code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill/Sherd No.
<i>Iron Age</i>				
F29	Coarse sand	3	31	(3056):2, (3057):1
F	Non-specific Iron Age	1	15	(3046):1
<i>Late Iron Age</i>				
F03	Grog and sand	7	117	(3056):7
F06B	Medium grog	17	126	(3056):13, (3057):2, (3065):2
F07	Shell	4	23	(3056):3, (3057):1
F09	Sand and grog	12	213	(3056):7, (3057):2, (3061):1, (3065):2
F34	Sand	11	110	(3056):11
<i>Romano-British</i>				
R02	Mica-gilded ware	1	9	(3056):1
R06B	Coarse grey ware	2	26	(3061):2
R06F	Grog and sand grey ware	1	14	(3061):1
R07B	Sandy black ware	4	38	(3039):1, (3056):3
R12B	Nene Valley colour coated ware	1	3	(3056):1
R13	Shelly ware	4	40	(3056):1 (3061):1
R14	Sandy ware (red-brown harsh)	2	33	(3061):2
R17	Smooth oxidised sandy ware	6	12	(3052):6
<i>Post-Roman</i>				
E03	Late medieval smooth sandy ware	1	7	(3012):1
P01	Glazed red earthenware	2	22	(3037):2
P06	Slip-decorated earthenware	1	23	(3020):1
P37	White salt-glazed stoneware	2	8	(3006):1, (3037):1
P38	Creamware	1	4	(3037):1
P43	Pearlware	1	15	(3006):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series and quantification

Iron Age

Fifty-one sherds (589g) in the late Iron Age ‘Belgic’ tradition (c. 50 BC to AD 100) derived from water-pit [3102] and ditch [3064]. Both hand-made and wheel-thrown vessels occur, in a range of grog-, shell- and sand-tempered fabrics. Diagnostic forms are jars with lid-seated or simple everted rims, some with cordons and combed or incised decoration.

Four abraded early Iron Age sand-tempered sherds (46g) occurred as residual finds in water-pit [3102].

Romano-British

Apart from a single sherd (5g) collected from quarry [3038] (part of [3096]), the assemblage (20 sherds: 170g) derived from the fills of water-pit [3102]. Most sherds are locally manufactured sand- or shell-tempered coarse wares. Wares from further afield comprise a single sherd from a mica-gilded bead rim bowl, two Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, and six worn sherds of either Hadham (Herts.) or Oxfordshire oxidised ware. The latter are too degraded to be further identified. Vessel forms are an everted rim jar, straight-sided dish, and plain rim bowl, suggesting a predominantly 2nd century date for the assemblage.

Post-Roman



Small pit [3011] contained a body sherd (7g) of transitional late medieval/early post-medieval oxidised sandy ware. Three sherds (45g) deriving from 17th-century glazed red earthenware bowls (one slip-decorated) were collected from ditch [3019] and quarry pit [3035]. Two sherds of 18th-century white salt-glazed stoneware (8g) and single sherds of 19th-century + pearlware and creamware, were recovered respectively from ditch [3005] and quarry pit [3035].

2.3.2 Ceramic building material

Seven abraded pieces of sand-tempered Roman building material (722g) derived from water-pit [3102], subsoil (3002) and occurred residually in post-medieval quarry pit [3035]. The assemblage comprises two brick fragments and five pieces of *imbrex* (roof tile).

Post-medieval building material (645g) comprises eleven pieces of peg tile, two brick fragments and a worn floor tile (width 95mm x depth 30mm), collected from ditch [3025], pit [3031] and quarry pits [3033] and [3035].

2.3.3 Other finds

A secondary flake in grey-brown translucent flint derived from the fill of Romano-British ditch [3070]. The object has a prominent bulb of percussion, retains cortex along the lateral edge, part of the dorsal surface and distal end, and shows signs of platform preparation. A possible early Neolithic date may be suggested.

Fill (3056) of the SE quadrant [3053] of the Roman water-pit contained an undatable triangular iron sheet fragment (RA 1) and a piece of dense ferrous slag or ore (136g).

Eight undiagnostic and highly abraded animal bone fragments (21g) were collected from water-pit quadrant [3053] and post-medieval ditches [3005] and [3013].

2.4 Project archive

With the landowner's permission, the project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford (accession no.: BEDFM 2014.04). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-230684) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



3 DISCUSSION

The project was commissioned to address the potential for significant archaeological heritage assets to be present within the DA. A late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement is known to exist to the east and a presumed associated cemetery was found during quarrying in the 19th century in the vicinity, although its exact location remains unknown.

A small assemblage of abraded early Iron Age pottery was recovered — as was the case within the investigations outside the DA to the east (Luke *et al* 2010, 323). These suggest that a settlement of this period is located in the vicinity, although based on the open-area excavation and evaluation trenches, it is clearly not within the DA.

The investigations revealed limited evidence for late Iron Age/ Romano-British activity and extensive areas of post-medieval quarrying. Roman features included a large water-pit and a small number of boundary ditches (Fig. 2). The latter were perpendicular to the ditches found in the earlier investigations to the east and presumably defined a field contemporary with the settlement (Fig. 4). The large assemblage of Roman finds within the water-pit suggests that it was used for rubbish disposal once it had gone out of use. No burials were present within the investigations area and had any been present they would probably have been destroyed by post-medieval quarrying and/or modern ploughing.

Water-pits, quarry pits and burials are typical features found on the periphery of Romano-British settlements. The results of the investigations, therefore, support the suggestion that the main western boundary of the settlement was defined by a series of ditches located just outside the DA to the east within previous investigations (Luke *et al* 2010, 325 and fig. 18) (Fig. 4).

As anticipated, large areas of post-medieval quarrying were found within the DA adjacent to Campton Road. In addition, boundary ditches parallel with Campton Road were identified and were clearly later than the backfilling of the quarries.

Given that the earlier, more substantial, investigations of the Romano-British settlement have already been published in the county archaeological journal, no further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report is required. Summaries of the work will be published in the relevant national and local journals and uploaded onto the OASIS website.



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5 APPENDIX 1: DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS



Area: 1
Extent (ha): 1
OS Co-ordinates: TL1356938787
Description: Campton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire - Mitigation Works

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3001	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small-medium stones. Up to 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3002	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. Between 0.3-0.6m thick. The subsoil overburden increases in depth towards the NW and base of the slope.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3003	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow silty clay occasional small-medium stones. Natural varied across the site from loose orange yellow sands with outcrops iron stone in the NW of site to clay deposits to the SW on the higher ground.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3004	Quarry	Irregular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, max depth 0.22m, min length 0.5m. Relationship segment for post-med quarry activity, cut by modern linear ditch [3005].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3061	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones. Fill comprised of colluvial material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3005	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: asymmetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, max depth 0.3m, min length 1.m. Modern ditch, cuts post-med quarrying [3004].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3006	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small CBM, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3007	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.74m, max depth 0.07m, min length 1.m. Modern ditch, truncated to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3008	Fill	Friable mid brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3009	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.74m, max depth 0.07m, min length 1.m. Modern ditch, truncated to the east.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3010	Fill	Friable mid brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3011	Pit	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.12m, max diameter 0.58m. Modern pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3012	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3013	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.59m, max depth 0.07m, min length 0.8m. Modern ditch, truncated to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3014	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3015	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.59m, max depth 0.06m, min length 0.8m. Modern ditch, truncated to the SW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3016	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3017	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.62m, max depth 0.21m, min length 1.m. Modern ditch, terminating to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3018	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay sand moderate small CBM, moderate small stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3019	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.37m, min depth 0.15m, min length 0.5m. Relationship segment of modern ditch, cuts perpendicular linear [3021] to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3020	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small CBM, moderate small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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3021	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.23m, min depth 0.09m, min length 0.3m. Relationship segment of modern ditch, cut by perpendicular linear [3019] to the SE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3022	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3023	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.17m, min length 1m. Modern ditch possibly terminating to the west, cuts post-med quarrying [3096].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3024	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3025	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.61m, max depth 0.27m, min length 1m. Modern ditch, cuts post-med quarry [3096].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3026	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay sand moderate small CBM, moderate small-medium stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3027	Pit	Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.17m, max length 1m. Modern pit, possibly related to quarrying to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3028	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3029	Pit	Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.11m, max length 0.65m. Modern pit, possible related to quarry activity to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3030	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3031	Pit	Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.27m, min length 1.29m. Modern pit, possible related to quarry activity to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3032	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3033	Quarry	Oval sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.47m, max depth 0.43m, min length 1m. Post-med quarry activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3034	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3035	Quarry	Irregular sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1m, min depth 0.58m, min length 2.22m. Post-med quarry activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3036	Lower fill	Compact mid orange brown sandy gravel frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3037	Upper fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3038	Quarry	Irregular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1m, max depth 0.32m, min length 1.85m. Post-med quarry activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3039	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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3040	Pit	Oval sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.88m, max depth 1.01m, min length 2.43m. Roman water pit, two quadrants excavated. Same as [3053].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3041	Lower fill	Friable mid red yellow silty sand occasional small-medium stones. Primary fill from construction of feature. Up to 0.13m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3042	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones. Primary fill from construction of feature. Up to 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3043	Lower fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional small stones. Primary fill from construction of feature. Up to 0.14m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3044	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones. Fill from side collapse. Up to 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3045	Fill	Friable mid orange orange silty clay occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3046	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown clay sand occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3047	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown clay sand occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.07m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3048	Fill	Friable mid brown yellow silty sand occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.07m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3049	Fill	Friable mid red brown clay sand moderate small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3050	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.14m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3051	Upper fill	Friable mid red brown clay sand occasional small-medium stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.5m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3052	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Fill comprises of backfilled material. Up to 0.14m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3053	Pit	Oval sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 2.35m, max depth 0.62m, min length 2.82m. Roman water pit, two quadrants excavated. Same as [3040].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3054	Lower fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional small stones. Primary fill from construction of the feature. Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3055	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material. Up to 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3056	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material. Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3057	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material. Up to 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3058	Upper fill	Friable mid brown red silty sand occasional small stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material. Up to 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3059	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material. Up to 0.5m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3060	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material. Up to 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3062	Quarry	Irregular sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 3m, max depth 0.54m, min length 0.5m. Post-med quarry activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3063	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small CBM, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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3064	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.43m, max length 36m. General no. for Roman ditch comprises of segments [3074], [3080], [3084], [3086] and [3094]. Ditch [3064] is aligned on a NE-SW trajectory before turning to a NW-SE alignment. It is truncated to the NE and cut by quarry pitting to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3065	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones. Fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3066	Quarry	Irregular NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.17m, min length 1.1m. Post-med quarry activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3067	Fill	Firm mid pinkish brown silty sand. Fill comprised of colluvial material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3068	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.33m, min length 0.85m. Relationship segment for Roman ditch, cut by post-med quarry [3066] to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3069	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3070	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.58m, max depth 0.62m, min length 1m. Roman ditch, with re-cut [3074] to the NW and parallel to ditch [3072].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3071	Fill	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3072	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.41m, min length 1m. Roman ditch, with re-cut [3074] to the SE and parallel to ditch [3070].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3073	Fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3074	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.32m, max depth 0.43m, min length 1m. Roman ditch, cutting ditches [3070] and [3072] to the NW and SE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3075	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3076	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.07m, max depth 0.39m, min length 1m. Roman ditch terminus, cut by parallel ditch [3080] to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3077	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3078	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.22m, min depth 0.37m, min length 1m. Relationship segment for Roman ditch, cut by parallel feature [3080] to the SE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3079	Fill	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3080	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.36m, min length 1m. Roman ditch, cutting parallel features [3076] and [3078] to the NW and SE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3081	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3082	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.47m, min length 1m. Roman ditch cut by parallel feature [3084] to the SE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3083	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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3084	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.26m, max length 1.m. Roman ditch, cuts parallell feature [3082] to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3085	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3086	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.67m. Roman ditch, narrows up the slope to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3087	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small stones, occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3088	Quarry	Irregular sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 2.1m, max depth 0.66m, min length 8.56m. Post-med quarrying, machine excavated segment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3089	Quarry	Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones. Fill derived from colluvial material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3090	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.02m, max depth 0.27m, min length 0.8m. Roman ditch, cut by parallell linear [3094] to the SW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3091	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay sand occasional small stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3092	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.29m, min length 0.8m. Roman ditch, cut by parallell linear [3094] to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3093	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay sand occasional small stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3094	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.32m, min length 0.8m. Roman ditch, cuts parallell linears [3090] and [3092] to the NE and SW respectively.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3095	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay sand occasional small stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3096	Quarry	Irregular sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 40.m, max depth 0.66m, min length 65.m. General number for post-med quarrying cut by modern ditches to the NE and cuts Roman ditches to the east, includes segments [3004], [3038], [3062], [3066] and [3088].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3097	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones. Fill derived from colluvial material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3098	Ditch	Linear sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.3m, min length 12.5m. General number for Roman ditch, alinged NW-SE and turns approx 90 degrees to NE-SW alignment. Cut by parallell ditch [3064] and includes segments [3068], [3072], [3082] and [3090].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3099	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3100	Ditch	Linear sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.3m, min length 10.m. General number for Roman ditch, alinged NW-SE and turns approx 90 degrees to NE-SW alignment. Cut by parallell ditch [3064] and includes segments [3070], [3076] and [3092].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3101	Fill	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. Fill derived from natural silting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3102	Pit	Oval sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 4.1m, max length 5.3m. General number for Roman water pit, includes quadrants [3040] and [3053].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3103	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones. Fill comprised of backfilled material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Area: 1
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Description: Campton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire - Mitigation Works

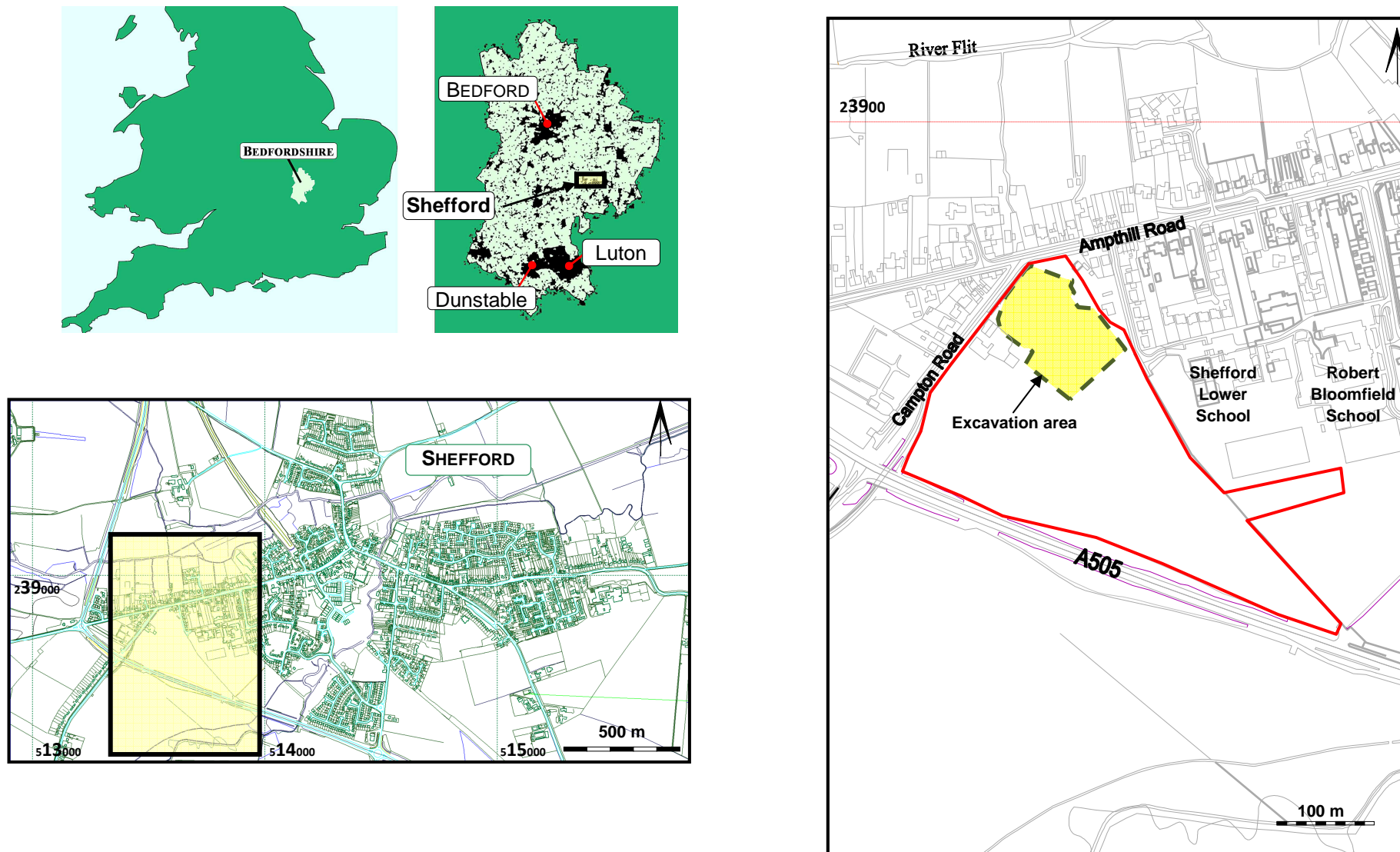


Figure 1: Site location plan

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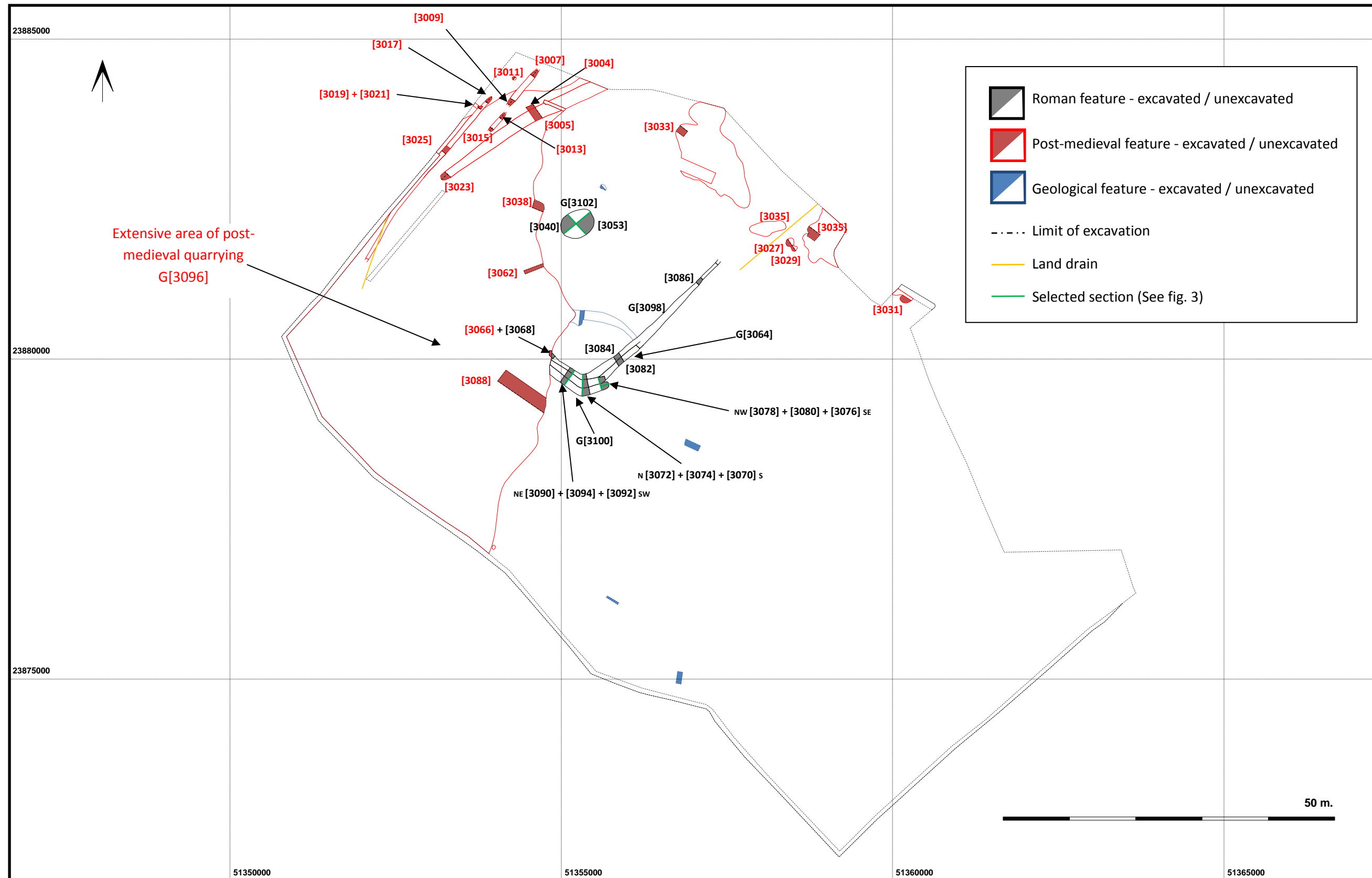


Figure 2: All-features plan

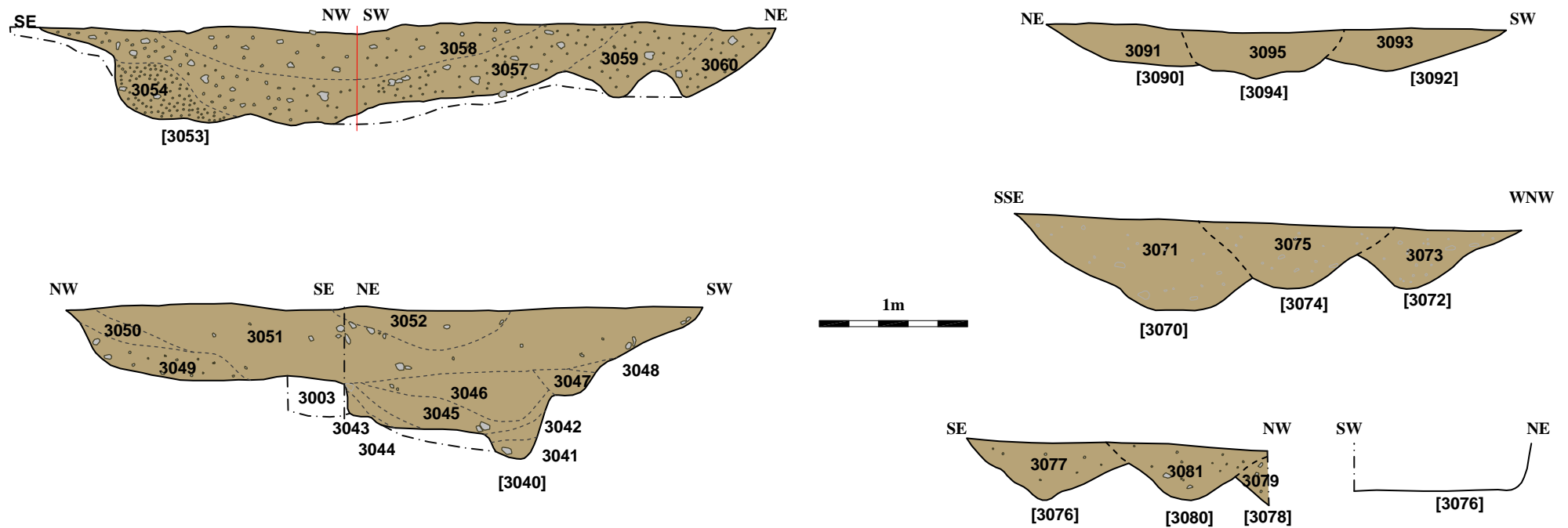


Figure 3: Selected sections

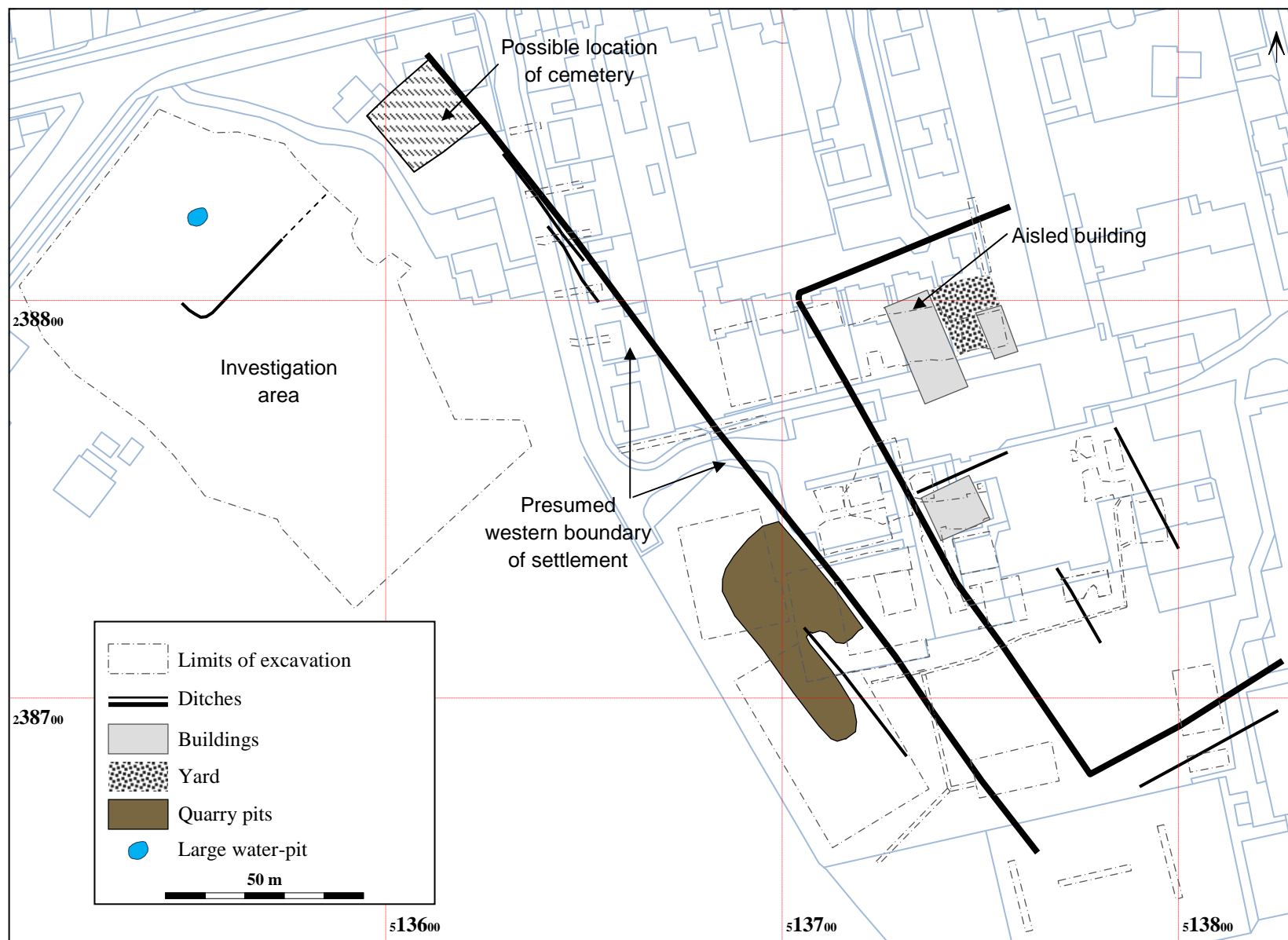
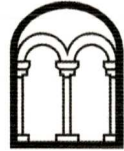


Figure 4: Simplified plan showing the basic layout of the Roman settlement, based on all archaeological investigations in the vicinity
(after Luke et al, 2010, fig. 18)

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